

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of March 22, 2000.

With regard to the specification, it appears that Attachment B of the Preliminary Amendment dated August 13, 1998 is in error. A specification intended to be consistent with underlined and bracketed specification of Attachment A of the Preliminary Amendment is enclosed herewith. This enclosed specification is a copy of the specification as apparently originally filed in this divisional application, but includes a modification to the first page to recite the divisional status of the application. The Applicant apologizes for these matters and invites the Examiner to telephone Applicant's counsel if further resolution or clarification is necessary.

With regard to the objections to the declaration, the Applicant filed a replacement declaration on March 23, 2000.

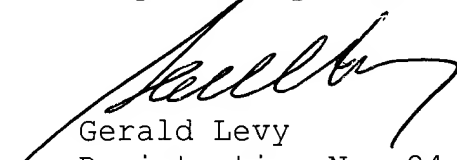
The specification and drawings have been extensively amended to conform to the parent application serial no. 08/899,434 as amended on December 9, 1999 (and to related divisional applications). No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this obviates the objections of numbered paragraphs 2-8 of the Office Action.

Similarly, the claims have been amended to obviate the objections and 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, rejections of numbered paragraphs 9-11.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently pending claims are patentable.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gerald Levy  
Registration No. 24,419

Pitney, Hardin, Kipp & Szuch, L.L.P.  
711 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10017  
212-687-6000